

Remarks

Entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the application, as amended, and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 11-22, 26-38 and 42-46 remain pending.

In the Office Action, dated January 19, 2007, claims 1-7, 11-22, 26-38 and 42-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,568,648 to Coscarella et al.; claims 8-9, 23-24 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coscarella in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. U.S. 2004/0230783A1 to Brice, Jr. et al.; and claims 10, 25 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without acquiescing to any of the rejections herein, applicants have rewritten the independent claims to include the subject matter of the objected to claims including any intervening claims. For instance, independent claim 1 has been amended to include objected to, but allowable, dependent claim 10 and the subject matter of intervening dependent claims 8-9; independent claims 16 and 31 have similarly been amended to include objected to, but allowable, dependent claim 25 and the subject matter of intervening claims 23-24; and independent claim 32 has been amended to include objected to, but allowable, dependent claim 41 and the subject matter of intervening claims 39-40.

Since the claims have been amended to include objected to, but allowable, subject matter, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for all claims pending herein.

For all of the above reasons, applicants respectfully request an indication of allowability for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this case with applicants' attorney, please contact applicants' attorney at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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